

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Find out the Answers to the 5 Most Frequently Asked Recycling Questions

Let's get right to it!

Q: Are all plastics with a recycling symbol on it recyclable?

A: No, not all plastics with a recycling symbol are recyclable. The chasing arrows symbol only indicates the general type of plastic the container is made from and not its recyclability. In Gainesville and Alachua County, only plastic bottles, jugs, jars, or tubs are accepted for recycling. For more information, visit gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled.



Q: Should I remove lids and caps before recycling containers?

A: Yes, you should remove lids and caps before placing recycling them. Small plastic caps and bottle caps should go in the trash. Larger metal lids from glass jars can be rinsed and placed back on emptied out containers. Large plastic lids from items like laundry detergent bottles and plastic tubs can be placed loose in your blue recycling bin.

Q: How clean do containers need to be for recycling?

A: Most bottles or cans only need a light rinse. However, if containers held sticky substances, like peanut butter or syrup, a more thorough cleaning may be required to remove all the residue before recycling.

Q: Are pizza boxes recyclable?

A: Generally, no. Used pizza boxes often have too much food residue or grease, making them unsuitable for recycling. However, clean box tops can be removed and recycled as cardboard.

Q: What do I do if I have more recyclables than what will fit in my two bins?

A: If you need additional recycling bins, you can request more at no extra charge. To request additional or replacement bins, please call 352-334-2330 (City of Gainesville residents) or 352-338-3233 (Alachua County residents). Extra flattened boxes can be placed next to or under your orange recycle bin.

Following these guidelines will help ensure your recycling efforts are effective and compliant with service guidelines. For more information, visit gainesvillefl.gov/Recycle.

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